

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-7 and 10-19 remain pending in the application.

In numbered paragraph 2, objections are raised with respect to the claims on the basis of minor informalities. By the foregoing amendments, the specific objections raised have been addressed such that withdrawal of these objections is requested. For example, claims 8, 9 and 20 are canceled; and claims 1, 15 and 16 incorporate the subject matter of claim 20 with minor corrections. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection with respect to formalities of the claims is requested in light of the foregoing amendments.

In numbered paragraph 4, independent claims 1, 15 and 16, along with various dependent claims, are rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,926,463 to Ahearn et al (Ahearn). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In numbered paragraph 7 of the Office Action, as to claim 9, the Examiner admits that the Ahearn patent does not specifically teach searching a database of nodes previously discovered by the network manager to identify the first node.

However, the Examiner asserts that:

However, Ahearn teaches using baseline management to detect changes to the configuration of a backbone by comparing the status of the current configuration data with the previously saved baseline information.

Notwithstanding the Examiner's assertion, the Ahearn patent does not teach or suggest "seeding a discovery process using at least one of querying a user to provide a first CDP node information and searching a database of nodes previously

discovered by a network manager to identify a first CDP node," as recited in claims 1, 15 and 16.

Exemplary embodiments of the present application, as encompassed by Applicants' claims 1, 15 and 16, are directed to discovering Cisco Discovery Protocol (CDP) nodes in a network in real time. For example, the discovery process can be seeded by either a user input or from previously identified nodes (specification at paragraph [0016]). The feature of seeding the discovery process as encompassed by Applicants' claims 1, 15 and 16 may speed the discovery of desired portions of the network (id.).


The Ahearn patent discloses that baseline management enables the user to easily detect changes to the Layer 3 configuration of the backbone (col. 9, lines 26-30). The Ahearn patent further discloses that the initial baseline and all subsequent deltas (changes) are integrity-checked (col. 9, lines 49-53). However the Ahearn patent does not speak of seeding the discovery process by either (1) a user input or (2) from previously identified nodes as recited in claims 1, 15 and 16. Clearly, the Ahearn patent does not teach or suggest seeding the discovery process as claimed.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant's claims 1, 15 and 16 are allowable over the Ahearn patent. The remaining claims depend from independent claims 1 and 16 and recite additional advantageous features which further distinguish over the document relied upon by the Examiner. As such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: November 16, 2004

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